

COMMANDER'S HATCH

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Victory Then - Victory Now - Victory Tomorrow: Mounted Forces 1945-2005

The Mounted Force — Armor, Cavalry, Mechanized Infantry, Aviation, and the rest of the mounted combined arms team — is decisively engaged, along with the entire Army, in the effort to move into the 21st Century. The strategic vision and goals associated with Force XXI are broad and point to significant change. They also point to a tremendous enhancement in the lethality, survivability, and tempo of operations by Mounted Forces. Foremost among the Force XXI objectives is Dominate Maneuver. The other objectives — Project and Sustain the Force, Win the Information War, Conduct Precision Strikes, Protect the Force — contribute to the prime objective of dominating maneuver. The 1995 Armor Conference will focus on the mounted community's efforts and progress in this area.

A major portion of the conference will consist of hands-on demonstrations of training, doctrine, and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) evolving from our Force XXI work. Information will also be provided on current and fu-

ture systems such as M1A2 Abrams, M8 Armored Gun System (AGS), and Tank 1080. State-of-the-art displays by the nation's leading defense contractors will show many of the items being pursued to enhance the Mounted Force as it moves into the 21st Century. Two items we particularly look forward to displaying are the full-up AGS and an operational C-17 that can be used to rapidly deploy this superb combat system in support of contingencies across the spectrum of conflict.

The most important element of the Army as we move to Force XXI, however, is its people: competent and highly developed leaders, along with well-trained and motivated soldiers. Despite tremendous enhancements in materiel, doctrine, organization, and TTP, the true power comes from more capable warriors. That ultimate potential is achieved through training and leader development.

The 1995 Armor Conference will spotlight the training that is being developed to support the Information Age

soldiers and units of Force XXI. Innovative uses of constructive and virtual simulations, linked with live exercises by means of Synthetic Theater of War (STOW) technologies are allowing unprecedented training opportunities and effectiveness.

These concepts will come alive during the Armor Conference. As a point of contrast, we will compare innovations in mounted training, past, present, and future. Thus, the theme: Victory Then - Victory Now - Victory Future: Mounted Forces 1945-2005. Special emphasis will be placed on the 50th Anniversary of the ending of World War II, and the important role Mounted Forces played in that victory.

The Mounted Force is undergoing the most fundamental change and growth in terms of combat potential since its birth on the eve of World War II. The 1995 Armor Conference will spotlight the training that has and will enable that force to contribute to past, present, and future victories.